



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending September 4, 2005

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa

Good Week for Field Work: The remnants of Hurricane Katrina brought scattered showers and thunderstorms to many areas of the state. Some areas were hit hard with strong winds and a tornado that touched down, resulting in localized damage to buildings and some crops. The damage in Pennsylvania pales in comparison to that in the Gulf Coast Region, as it is still unclear the extent of the damage which the hurricane has caused. Overall, 5 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included haymaking, hauling manure, harvesting peaches and apples, cutting silage, silo filling, preparing for fall plantings, and attending local county fairs.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 4, 2005

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
18	38	42	2

Crops: Fall plowing is now 18 percent complete, on pace with the 5-year average. Seven percent of the soybean crop is now dropping leaves, 2 percentage points ahead of last year. Soybean conditions remained steady from last week as 60 percent of the crop is rated as either good or excellent. Eighty-eight percent of the corn crop is in the dough stage, and 62 percent of the crop is dented. Both crop stages are behind last year's pace but ahead of the 5-year average. Twenty-three percent corn acreage is mature. Corn crop conditions held steady from last week as 56 percent of the crop is rated as either good or excellent. The corn silage harvest is in full swing and is now 24 percent complete. Thirty-three percent of potatoes and 63 percent of the tobacco crop are now harvested, both ahead of the 5-year average. Thirty-two percent of next year's barley crop is planted, and 13 percent of the crop is already emerged. Ninety-two percent of the 3rd cutting and 31 percent of the 4th cutting of alfalfa are now complete. Seventy-eight percent of the 2nd cutting of timothy is now complete. The quality of hay made this week was 3 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 33 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. This dropped slightly from last week.

Eighty-seven percent of apples are rated as either good or excellent. Twenty-seven percent of apples and 91 percent of peaches are now harvested.

Livestock: Pasture conditions improved slightly with last week's rain; however, they are well short of where they need to be. Sixty-two percent of the state's pasture land is rated as either very poor or poor.

U.S. As of August 28, 2005: Highlights: Above-normal temperatures across most of the Nation were favorable for summer crop development. Even in the northern Corn Belt and northern Great Plains, where temperatures averaged below normal, crops progressed rapidly. Crop conditions improved in the central Corn Belt in response to abundant rainfall during the previous week. Mostly dry weather from the Pacific Northwest across the northern Rocky Mountains to the northern Great Plains favored small grain harvest. In the southwestern Corn Belt and central and southern Great Plains, heavy precipitation improved crop conditions but hindered fieldwork. Corn: Doughing advanced to 91 percent, 14 percentage points ahead of last year and 7 points ahead of normal. Sixty-one percent of the crop was denting or beyond, compared with 44 percent last year and 52 percent for the 5-year average. Maturation reached 11 percent, 1 point ahead of last year but 1 point behind normal. Denting progressed rapidly across the Corn Belt, Ohio Valley, and northern Great Plains. Despite ahead-of-normal progress in earlier stages, maturation trailed behind normal in all States, except Kentucky, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Soybeans: Pod setting, at 97 percent, was 2 points ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Leaves had begun dropping on 6 percent of the acreage, the same as last year but 1 point behind normal. Small Grains: The barley harvest advanced to 78 percent complete, compared with 60 percent last year and 74 percent for the 5-year average. Ninety-eight percent of the oat crop had been harvested, 11 points ahead of last year and 5 points ahead of normal.

Weather Data For Week Ending September 4, 2005

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 4, 2005					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	85	54	69	2	2.20	2	14.62	-4.24	52	2,468	350	3,852
Franklin	83	50	67	2	2.63	3	19.36	-2.06	87	2,228	235	3,660
Meadville	82	51	67	3	2.38	3	19.37	-1.92	61	2,312	485	3,740
Mercer	84	51	67	2	2.59	3	20.45	0.19	84	2,292	320	3,702
Springboro	83	46	65	-3	3.03	2	20.53	1.85	66	2,119	19	3,487
Warren	85	53	68	4	3.03	3	16.83	-4.54	63	2,200	263	3,612
North Central												
Bradford Region	80	44	64	4	4.28	3	21.18	-0.23	69	1,733	310	3,072
Emporium	84	52	68	6	2.44	4	14.52	-6.92	66	2,196	600	3,609
Kane	81	46	63	4	3.66	3	17.09	-4.63	59	1,670	273	3,000
Laporte	79	54	67	3	3.85	4	21.60	1.89	73	2,004	16	3,373
Lock Haven	83	52	70	4	1.91	4	11.80	-7.66	55	2,514	413	3,977
Port Allegany	83	48	65	4	4.36	3	16.30	-3.88	59	1,899	333	3,242
Renovo	85	54	71	5	3.07	3	11.57	-7.89	53	2,479	378	3,941
Ridgway	82	50	65	4	3.33	3	17.61	-3.83	61	1,928	332	3,315
Stevenson Dam	84	52	68	6	3.23	3	14.95	-6.49	64	2,319	723	3,763
Towanda	84	53	70	5	2.92	3	15.49	-0.86	54	2,320	316	3,746
Wellsboro	79	50	66	5	3.49	3	20.26	3.83	56	1,881	370	3,223
Williamsport	85	54	71	4	1.55	3	19.59	0.37	49	2,669	353	4,143
Northeast												
Hawley	82	48	68	5	0.61	4	15.65	-3.02	57	2,077	357	3,467
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	86	53	73	7	0.53	3	11.74	-6.41	53	2,720	520	4,194
Susquehanna	83	53	69	8	1.99	3	18.16	-1.83	65	2,223	583	3,630
West Central												
Butler	87	48	67	1	2.72	3	17.83	-2.54	61	2,340	277	3,814
New Castle	86	53	69	3	3.17	3	20.97	2.54	59	2,537	474	4,007
Slippery Rock	86	49	68	4	2.91	3	19.65	-0.17	63	2,354	492	3,838
Central												
Altoona/Blair	83	49	69	2	0.48	3	10.55	-7.08	43	2,290	88	3,743
DuBois	81	49	67	3	2.29	4	16.05	-4.39	78	2,148	233	3,583
Lewistown	86	54	71	4	0.93	2	14.62	-4.43	51	2,635	223	4,130
Middletown	87	61	75	5	0.45	2	15.34	-3.39	47	3,061	345	4,596
Prince Gallitzi	84	46	66	2	0.50	3	15.65	-7.06	66	2,036	264	3,442
Selinsgrove	87	54	71	4	1.49	3	16.92	-2.61	53	2,549	288	4,024
State College	81	54	70	4	1.40	3	11.45	-6.36	57	2,510	331	3,994
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	87	53	73	4	0.87	3	18.43	-2.02	56	2,756	267	4,265
Lehighton	83	54	71	3	0.90	3	18.35	-1.94	56	2,519	111	4,007
Matamoras	86	50	70	4	0.78	4	18.21	-2.38	62	2,218	37	3,647
Tobyhanna	85	53	71	11	1.32	4	20.93	-0.85	82	2,465	955	3,941
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	84	56	70	3	1.18	3	14.88	-4.01	65	2,795	586	4,314
Derry	79	50	67	1	0.58	3	18.96	-0.70	56	2,366	279	3,842
Myersdale	81	45	65	-3	0.18	3	15.62	-5.78	57	1,861	-189	3,244
Mount Pleasant	83	47	68	3	0.71	4	20.30	-2.07	71	2,325	462	3,804
Pittsburgh Intl	83	52	68	1	1.93	3	18.74	0.93	61	2,656	346	4,158
Rector	83	50	68	4	0.91	3	18.38	-3.99	84	2,321	458	3,797
Waynesburg	86	50	68	2	0.97	4	16.23	-3.35	57	2,413	270	3,901
South Central												
Biglerville	86	55	73	3	1.63	2	19.98	2.49	57	2,705	52	4,218
Everett	84	47	67	-1	0.36	1	10.09	-7.11	52	1,920	-267	3,329
Hanover	86	52	73	3	0.05	1	20.37	2.88	52	2,695	42	4,199
Shippensburg	85	54	72	3	0.73	3	19.83	2.70	63	2,741	106	4,242
South Mountain	81	51	69	3	0.87	2	19.18	1.55	53	2,338	143	3,851
York	87	51	73	3	0.05	2	14.15	-4.89	45	2,726	86	4,229
Southeast												
Green Lane	87	56	74	6	0.40	4	16.50	-3.37	50	2,750	373	4,266
Hamburg	86	55	73	6	0.30	2	18.09	-4.87	50	2,759	577	4,269
Hopewell	87	56	74	3	0.66	4	20.37	-0.29	72	2,761	-27	4,279
Lancaster	88	56	75	6	0.19	3	19.40	-0.71	50	2,812	301	4,326
Neshaminy Falls	88	55	74	5	0.16	4	20.24	-2.87	45	2,607	124	4,098
New Holland	90	57	75	6	0.20	2	16.08	-4.03	48	2,872	361	4,390
Philadelphia	89	64	78	6	0.21	2	16.87	-2.80	47	3,204	336	4,761
Philadelphia NE	90	62	77	5	0.10	4	19.38	-0.29	49	3,125	257	4,671
Reading	88	55	75	6	0.36	2	16.32	-5.07	52	2,953	483	4,473
Valley Forge Na	90	50	74	3	0.45	3	17.25	-3.41	37	2,630	-158	4,116
Willow Grove	87	59	75	6	0.51	3	16.99	-6.12	39	2,891	408	4,423

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals..

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney (FSA) - Adams County received some rainfall this past week; however, it was during the early morning hours of August 31st. A few spots in the county received 2 inches and high winds, and an F1 Tornado touched down in the Heidlersburg area in Tyrone Township. Some corn fields in those areas were affected by the high winds and were flattened, but damage was very minimal for the county. Straban and Liberty townships also had high winds with minimal damage to crops. The rest of the county received 1 inch of rainfall. Most of the storm areas had buildings that lost their roofs or had significant damage; fortunately, there weren't any injuries and crops were not affected except right on those locations.

Corn in Adams County is being chopped for silage, and the corn stalks are drying down quickly. Some additional field preparation for small grain planting occurred this week, and the additional rainfall will continue to benefit crops. Cooler evening temperatures were welcome, and most daytime temperatures were only around 85 degrees or less.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - The temperatures have cooled down considerably, especially at night. Potato harvesting is under way for shipping directly from the field. Moisture is still inadequate.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Two inches of rainfall for the week. Should help fall hay and new seedings.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice) - We had enough rain to help the soybean crop. Corn is pretty much done. Small ears and kernal size.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - The soil needs moisture. Soybeans appear to be ideal. Yields should be above normal. Corn crop appears to be okay. Crops north of I-80 should have some record yields if corn matures. Vegetables, tomatoes, peppers, and squash have have yielded above normal compared to past state averages. Cabbage isn't doing as well. The potato harvest is going well. Nice market size.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler - Please pray and prepare to help all in the Delta & Gulf Region with the special needs of our agriculture brothers and sisters.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr (NRCS) - Silage corn is drying down fast and harvesting is in full swing. Tobacco harvesting is progressing rapidly. This should provide a good opportunity for planting cover crops to protect the soil over winter. Little measurable rain last week even though the skies looked like it would several times.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - Virtually no rain from Katrina left the county remaining dry. Much of the area has gotten less than an inch since the middle of August. Sunny, dry weather returned by Thursday through the weekend. Silage harvesting and haymaking were the main activities.

PERRY COUNTY, David L Swartz (EXT) - Commercial grape growers in our area are reporting the best crop in several years. The cool, dry spring of '05 was perfect weather to set and start a great crop that was benefitted by dry summer weather.

POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA) - A good week for harvesting hay and corn silage. Much of the county received 3 to 4 inches of much needed rain.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, Terry Stehr (FSA) - Silage harvest started on a large scale this past week. Growers report moisture levels are lower than the color of the stalk indicates. Irrigation continues on late vegetables, and moisture levels are short throughout the county.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - We had 2.5 inches of rain Monday night and another 1.9 inches Tuesday night and Wednesday. It's really too late for corn unless it was planted in June. Hope it came soon enough to help the 3rd cutting. It did green the yards back up and settled the dust. Will start chopping corn this week. Looks like a so-so yield. We will know better in a few days.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump (NRCS) - Recent rains were badly needed and have helped soil moisture, but the producers continue to tell me that they believe the rain was too late to affect crop yields.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Cooler temperatures and some soaking rains have greened everything up. Some very poor grain yields are being reported on late-planted corn that is being harvested for silage. Soybeans are responding favorably to the better growing conditions, and yields should improve dramatically if we can sustain some heat well into September. Grass is growing again after the summer's heat.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 4, 2005

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	18	24	18
Corn, dough	88	89	82
Corn, dent	62	67	52
Corn, mature	23	23	14
Barley, planted	32	4	4
Barley, emerged	13	1	1
Tobacco, harvested	63	87	54
Potatoes, harvested	33	31	30
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	92	80	76
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	31	27	31
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	78	85	78
Peaches, harvested	91	85	91
Apples, harvested	27	38	31

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 4, 2005

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	4	11	29	42	14
Soybeans	2	8	30	44	16
Quality of hay made	3	9	37	33	18
Pasture	32	30	21	14	3
Apples	3	3	7	56	31

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